

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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State Office Building, 217 West First
Street Madison 1271

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

More Deaths From Cancer

There were 8435 cancer deaths registered in California last year as compared with 7971 in 1934. This represents an increase of almost 500 deaths in 1935. The death rate per hundred thousand population for this cause grew from 129.4 in 1934 to 134.4 in 1935. Cancer has risen steadily in California during the past twenty-five years and annually claims more lives than any other single cause with the exception of diseases of the heart and circulatory system. In 1906 the death rate for this disease was 73.8 with a total number of deaths from cancer of 1502.

Most deaths from cancer occur in persons who are more than 45 years of age. In fact, almost half of all such deaths are in individuals who are 65 years of age and over. The disease causes more deaths in women than in men and comparatively few individuals of races other than white suffer from cancer. It affects fatally the stomach, liver and digestive tract more often than any other organs of the body. Half of all cancer deaths are in individuals whose cancer is located in such organs. The following table shows the classifications by organs affected for deaths from cancer in 1934 and 1935:

	1935	1934
Buccal Cavity	320	248
Digestive Tract and Peritoneum	3949	3714
Respiratory System	435	347
Uterus	921	875
Other female genital organs	232	224
Breast	863	905
Male genito-urinary organs	715	790
Skin	162	139
Other organs and unspecified	838	729

The cancer death rate is high in those cities where large numbers of elderly individuals from other states have found retirement in a favorable climate. The cancer death rate for San Francisco is also higher than that for the state as a whole. The following table gives the numbers of such deaths, together with rates, for the larger cities of California in 1934 and 1935:

	1935		1934	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Oakland	418	138.4	352	117.9
Berkeley	118	132.5	104	118.6
Fresno	42	77.1	46	85.0
Bakersfield	15	53.6	29	105.1
Los Angeles	2010	142.2	1877	136.1
Long Beach	201	121.8	185	115.2
Pasadena	198	235.1	165	199.7
Pomona	35	153.8	25	111.7
Santa Monica	115	267.7	71	169.8
Glendale	107	141.2	108	147.5
Santa Ana	28	81.7	32	95.5
Riverside	53	163.3	59	184.9
Sacramento	165	163.1	151	151.5
San Bernardino	67	157.8	61	147.0
San Diego	284	169.5	265	161.8
San Francisco	1220	182.5	1177	177.9
Stockton	48	96.0	60	121.0
Santa Barbara	47	125.7	48	131.0
San Jose	81	129.7	74	120.3

A large amount of work is being accomplished in efforts to control cancer. It is probable that never in history has so much intensive effort been expended in the control of this disease. The early discovery of cases is of the greatest importance. Many are not revealed except through thorough routine medical examination. Many an individual does not know that

he has a cancer until such an examination reveals its presence. Any unusual swelling or lump should be regarded as suspicious of cancer. It must be remembered, however, that surgery is not required in all cases. Modern methods of treatment are frequently efficacious without resorting to surgery. There are several methods of treatment that are used successfully in certain forms of the disease. The most important factor in the prevention of cancer is early discovery and prompt application of such treatment as medical service may indicate is necessary.

FEWER SUICIDES LAST YEAR

There were 1497 suicides recorded in California last year as compared with 1639 in 1934. The highest rates are encountered in the larger cities and are particularly high in those cities that are known as centers for casual laborers. Homeless middle-aged men of this class frequently resort to suicide when economic and physical stresses occur. Suicide, generally, is of more frequent occurrence in urban than in rural communities. Of the 1497 suicides registered last year, 622 occurred in the three largest cities of the state.

Suicides that occurred last year as classified according to method of self-destruction used are as follows:

Total	1497
Solid or Liquid Poisons.....	329
Poisonous Gas.....	152
Hanging and Strangulation.....	229
Drowning	57
Firearms	532
Cutting and Piercing.....	73
Jumping from High Places.....	92
Crushing	21
Other Means.....	12

SUICIDES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

	1935		1934	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Oakland	78	25.8	72	24.1
Berkeley	21	23.6	16	18.2
Fresno	14	25.7	14	25.9
Bakersfield	5	17.9	6	21.7
Los Angeles	338	23.9	389	28.2
Long Beach	25	15.1	24	15.0
Pasadena	18	21.4	25	30.2
Pomona	5	22.0	3	13.4
Santa Monica	12	27.9	16	38.2
Glendale	17	22.4	12	16.4
Santa Ana	6	17.5	3	8.9
Riverside	9	27.7	6	18.8
Sacramento	32	31.6	36	36.1
San Bernardino	8	18.8	12	28.9
San Diego	58	34.6	50	30.5
San Francisco	206	30.8	219	33.1
Stockton	20	40.0	20	40.3
Santa Barbara	7	18.7	4	10.9
San Jose	6	9.6	11	17.9

Few of the talents that Heaven sows are ever brought to light.—U. C. Extension Division.

TO HOLD INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

With over 300 government officials and educators taking part in program subjects, the eighth annual Institute of Government will be held on the University of Southern California campus for a five-day session beginning June 15, according to acting-dean W. Balentine Henley of S. C. Staged by the School of Government, seventeen phases of administration will be presented by leaders and prominent authorities from over the United States.

There will be a section on public health as well as hospital and institutional management. Dr. Ira V. Hiscock, professor of public health at Yale University, will take part in the group dealing with trends, methods of measuring needs, the professional needs in personnel training, problems and developments in sanitation and dissemination of health information as well as new developments in syphilis control. Mr. C. A. Holmquist, director of the division of sanitation, New York State Health Department, will act as section leader on the section of water supply and sanitary engineering.

Dr. Benjamin W. Black, medical director of Alameda County and past president of the Western Hospital Association, will direct the hospital section. Featured will be round table and panel discussions on subjects of hospital organization, its medical staff, hospital ethics, creative management and personnel problems.

Other subjects planned for public administrators, employees, and civic workers include sections on crime detection, fire protection, city planning, engineering, public welfare, taxation, and clerkship administration.

Outstanding authorities taking part include Dr. Emery E. Olson, director of "In Service Training," American University, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Nels Anderson, director of Labor Relations, WPA Administration, Washington, D. C.; Edward M. Bassett, New York zoning commission; Dr. Finla Crawford, Syracuse University; Dr. Lloyd Morey, University of Illinois; Dr. John M. Pfiffner and Dr. Carlton C. Rodee of the S. C. School of Government.

Offering discussions of some 200 different governmental problems, the institute provides a comprehensive training in the principles and techniques of public administration. Beginning its second annual Public Business Laboratory the seminar will feature actual contact and study in departments of local and national government during its six weeks course from June 19 to July 30.

There are steps in education that can be taken only after one has gained some measure of experience.—U. C. Extension Division.

CHRONIC ILLNESS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

A week before his retirement in January as Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming delivered an address in New York City upon "Chronic Disease as a Public Health Problem." He brought out the fact that fifty years ago the expectancy of life at birth in the United States was about 40 years, while today it is about 61 years, a gain of more than 20 years. He credited public health administration with this gain. Better sanitation, improved water supplies and sewerage systems, the advance of bacteriology, education in personal hygiene and successful attacks upon communicable diseases have contributed chiefly to this advance. Dr. Cumming stated that tuberculosis, typhoid fever and diphtheria, as well as other diseases, have been decreasing, some of them almost to the vanishing point. He stated further that modern infant and maternal welfare work has saved the lives of thousands of infants, and, as a result, the average age of the population has increased.

The increasing age of the population in the United States is due to a number of different factors. One of them is the restriction of immigration which decreases the number of young adults of productive and child bearing ages. The birth rate has declined and is declining further. These combined forces result in a higher percentage of the older age group in the total population. It has been estimated that the population of the future will keep increasing until in 1980 more than one-fourth of our citizens will fall in the older age group. These facts have turned the attention of public health workers to the necessity for determining and initiating measures to protect the health of this increasingly large age group. Heart diseases, kidney diseases and cancer are claiming enormous numbers of lives among such individuals.

These factors, the aging of the population, the increase in death rates among older age groups, the increase in death rates from chronic diseases and the growing need for care of the chronically ill, have stimulated the United States Public Health Service to undertake a study of the chronic disease situation. Part of this study has been carried on in California in cooperation with the California State Department of Public Health. It has been largely for the purpose of determining whether mortality in the families of the unemployed and others severely affected by the depression increased, remained stationary or decreased during the years of 1929 to 1934. A house-to-house canvass involving more than 30,000 families was undertaken. While the study concerns largely those factors that have to do with health and economic depression,

it is certain that valuable information relative to the extent and prevalence of chronic diseases will be developed. The study is now in the process of tabulation.

SANITATION ALONG HIGHWAYS

The following food supply places and service stations along state highways were inspected during March:

No. 101 highway through Healdsburg, Geyserville, Cloverdale, Hopland to south city limits of Ukiah; from north city limit line of Ukiah to and through Calpella, Laytonville, Willits, Garberville, Meyers, Weoth, Pepperville, Scotia, Wildwood, Rio del Fortuna, Loleta; Fields Landing through Eureka, Arcata, Trinidad, Orrick, Crescent City, Smith River and Fort Dick, Oregon state line.

No. 199 highway from Crescent City city limits to Idlewild through Gasquet and Patricks Creek.

No. 299 highway from No. 101 highway through Willow Creek, Salyer, Burnt Ranch, Del Loma, Helipa, Junction City, Weaverville, Douglas City, Shasta to westerly line of Redding city limits.

No. 99 highway from Redding south city limits through Anderson, Cottonwood (not Red Bluff), Proberta, Gerber, Corning, Orland, Artois, Willows, Norman, Delevan, Maxwell, Colusa Junction, Williams, Berlin, Arbuckle, Harrington, Dunnigan to Junction No. 99 and No. 44 highways.

No. 99 and No. 40 highways from Junction of No. 44 highway through Dixon, Vacaville, Fairfield to north line of Vallejo city limits.

A total of 464 highway food supply places and service stations were inspected. Satisfactory conditions were encountered in 233 such places. Minor defects were found in 101 and insanitary conditions prevailed in 130 places.

Measles begins with sore eyes and other symptoms resembling those of a cold. In young children it is often serious—two-thirds of all deaths from the disease occur among children less than five years old. If there is measles in the community the wise parent keeps children under five at home.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 2d, 1936

Chickenpox

578 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Oakland 49, San Leandro 1, Jackson 4, Butte County 2, Contra Costa County 1, Concord 1, Martinez 6, Del Norte County 1, Crescent City 2, Fresno County 9, Fresno 15, Eureka 3, Imperial County 1, Bishop 1, Kern County 6, Los Angeles County 33, Alhambra 11, Beverly Hills 3, Burbank 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 14, Glendora 1, Huntington Park 5, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 31, Los Angeles 57, Monrovia 1, Montebello 3, Pasadena 4, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 3, Whittier 1, Torrance 2, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 3, Madera County 12, Ross 1, Merced County 2, Merced 25, Orange County 21, Anaheim 8, Orange 2, Santa Ana 9, Placentia 1, Tustin 1, San Clemente 4, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 5, Needles 1, Ontario 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 35, Chula Vista 2, Escondido 2, La Mesa 1, National City 1, San Diego 27, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 11, Manteca 1, Stockton 12, San Luis Obispo County 6, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 9, Palo Alto 12, San Jose 2, Santa Clara 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Shasta County 1, Siskiyou County 1, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1, Oakdale 2, Turlock 3, Tulare County 3, Ventura County 14, Yolo County 2.

Diphtheria

34 cases: Oakland 2, El Centro 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 16, Riverside County 1, Corona 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 3, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara 2, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 1.

German Measles

433 cases: Alameda County 5, Alameda 11, Berkeley 111, Oakland 43, San Leandro 6, Contra Costa County 6, Martinez 3, Richmond 1, Fresno 1, Sanger 1, Imperial 1, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 23, Arcadia 1, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Glendale 3, Long Beach 31, Los Angeles 11, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 2, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 1, Merced County 1, Merced 1, Orange County 10, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 6, Newport Beach 1, Orange 4, Santa Ana 9, Tustin 1, Colfax 6, Riverside County 2, Riverside 17, Sacramento 1, Ontario 3, Chula Vista 2, La Mesa 3, National City 7, San Diego 6, San Francisco 34, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Stockton 22, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 1, San Luis Obispo 2, Daly City 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Benicia 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 1, Davis 1.

Influenza

148 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Alhambra 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 22, San Gabriel 1, Whittier 1, Madera County 13, Fort Bragg 94, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 1, Placentia 1, Placer County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, Santa Clara County 4, Tehama County 1.

Malaria

5 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Lodi 1, Tulare County 1, Exeter 1, California 1.*

Measles

2699 cases: Alameda County 25, Alameda 24, Albany 3, Berkeley 29, Emeryville 1, Livermore 10, Oakland 132, Pleasanton 1, San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Gridley 2, Colusa 2, Contra Costa County 4, Concord 1, El Cerrito 2, Martinez 4, Pinole 2, Pittsburg 18, Richmond 1, Crescent City 2, Fresno County 13, Fresno 25, Glenn County 4, Humboldt County 5, Eureka 2, Imperial County 6, El Centro 2, Imperial 2, Inyo County 4, Kern County 22, Bakersfield 3, Taft 11, Kings County 1, Lassen County 168, Los Angeles County 255, Alhambra 45, Arcadia 19, Azusa 3, Beverly Hills 15, Burbank 27, Compton 20, Culver City 6, El Monte 5, El Segundo 1, Glendale 94, Glendora 1, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 35, Inglewood 6, Long Beach 24, Los Angeles 459, Monrovia 41, Montebello 4, Pasadena 97, Pomona 23, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 8, San Marino 3, Santa Monica 31, Sierra Madre 2, South Pasadena 7, Whittier 20, Torrance 4, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 15, Monterey Park 41, Maywood 6, Bell 1, Gardena 2, Madera County 8, Madera 1, Marin County 2, San Rafael 11, Merced County 1, Monterey County 9, King City 25, Napa 2, Orange County 34, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 2, Orange 5, Santa Ana 8, Seal Beach 2, La Habra 4, Laguna Beach 1, Tustin 1, San Clemente 1, Riverside County 28, Corona 26, Riverside 38, Sacramento 5, San Bernardino County 7, Chino 1, Ontario 4, Redlands 21, San Bernardino 19, Upland 2, San Diego County 8, Escondido 12, La Mesa 1, Oceanside 12, San Diego 140, San Francisco 199, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 3, San Luis Obispo 5, San Mateo County 5, Burlingame 4, Daly City 7, Hillsborough 2, Redwood City 3, San Mateo 5, South San Francisco 2, San Carlos 1, Menlo Park 4, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 12, Santa Clara County 27, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 4, San Jose 7, Willow Glen 10, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Cruz 1, Shasta County 8, Siskiyou County 1, Solano County 1, Benicia 17, Vallejo 6, Stanislaus County 5, Turlock 10, Patterson 2, Sutter County 3, Tehama County 5, Red Bluff 11, Tulare County 6, Tulare 1, Tuolumne County 2, Sonoma 1, Ventura County 5, Yolo County 4, Yuba County 1, Marysville 1.

Mumps

660 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 17, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 12, Hercules 4, Pinole 9, Placerville 1, Fresno County 12, Fresno 12, Glenn County 8, Imperial County 1, Kern County 10, Bakersfield 1, Taft 2, Los Angeles County 88, Alhambra 11, Beverly Hills 3, Burbank 3, Compton 7, Culver City 1, Glendale 2, La Verne 5, Long Beach 32, Los Angeles 65, Monrovia 2, Montebello 7, Pasadena 12, Pomona 10, Santa Monica 5, Whittier 12, Lynwood 4, South Gate 6, Monterey Park 30, Madera County 1, Yosemite National Park 1, Merced County 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 2, Orange County 5, Brea 8, Fullerton 8, Huntington Beach 1, Newport 1, Santa Ana 7, Seal Beach 2, San Clemente 2, San Juan Capistrano 1, Colfax 4, Riverside County 22, Corona 7, Riverside 23, Sacramento 47, Ontario 2, San Bernardino 6, San Diego County 4, Escondido 3, National City 2, San Diego 17, San Francisco 1, Stockton 10, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 6, Willow Glen 3, Siskiyou County 7, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 3, Turlock 1, Patterson 8, Sutter County 3, Tehama County 5, Red Bluff 5, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 3, Woodland 1, Yuba County 20.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

70 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 5, Richmond 1, Fresno County 2, Imperial County 2, Los Angeles County 5, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 23, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 2, Monterey Park

1, Monterey County 3, Monterey 1, La Habra 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 1, San Francisco 9, Vallejo 2, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1.

Scarlet Fever

313 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 3, Oakland 4, San Leandro 2, Butte County 2, Gridley 2, Colusa 4, Contra Costa County 1, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 3, Eureka 1, Imperial County 4, El Centro 1, Kern County 6, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 32, Alhambra 2, Arcadia 1, Beverly Hills 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 61, Monrovia 1, Montebello 2, Pasadena 5, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Alturas 1, Monterey County 1, Napa County 2, Calistoga 1, Fullerton 3, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 2, Placentia 1, Placer County 1, Riverside 5, Sacramento 5, Upland 1, San Diego County 6, Chula Vista 2, San Diego 3, San Francisco 67, San Joaquin County 4, San Luis Obispo County 4, Burlingame 1, Mountain View 1, San Jose 1, Santa Clara 3, Santa Cruz 1, Vallejo 3, Petaluma 5, Oakdale 3, Red Bluff 2, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 2, Ventura County 4, Oxnard 3, Santa Paula 1, Winters 4, Woodland 1, Yuba County 3, Marysville 2.

Smallpox

2 cases: Auburn 1, Santa Cruz County 1.

Typhoid Fever

4 cases: Butte County 1, El Centro 1, Yolo County 1, California 1.*

Whooping Cough

415 cases: Alameda 9, Albany 2, Berkeley 20, Oakland 21, Contra Costa County 8, Fresno County 5, Sanger 1, Fortuna 2, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 35, Alhambra 6, Beverly Hills 5, Compton 7, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 6, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 42, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 3, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 3, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Yosemite National Park 5, Orange County 3, Fullerton 1, Orange 2, Santa Ana 7, Laguna Beach 3, Riverside 7, Sacramento 8, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 5, San Diego County 37, Coronado 1, Escondido 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 59, San Francisco 26, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 5, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo County 2, Paso Robles 3, San Luis Obispo 1, San Jose 2, Santa Clara 1, Santa Cruz 2, Vallejo 2, Stanislaus County 3, Yolo County 9.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

6 cases: Imperial County 1, Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 1, Palo Alto 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

3 cases: Los Angeles.

Pellagra

3 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 1, San Francisco 1.

Poliomyelitis

1 case: Fresno.

Tetanus

1 case: Lassen County

Trachoma

2 cases: Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1.

Trichinosis

1 case: San Francisco.

Food Poisoning

1 case: San Francisco.

Undulant Fever

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Lompoc 1.

Tularemia

1 case: Kern County.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases: Menlo Park 1, Watsonville 1.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

3 cases: Oakland 1, Beverly Hills 1, San Mateo County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

16 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 6, Redondo 2, Torrance 1, San Diego 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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